

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE AT COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER AND PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval of Community College of Denver's (CCD) and Pueblo Community College's (PCC) proposed Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene (BAS DEH), including a waiver from gtPathways requirements. This is the second proposal from a Colorado Community College System school to offer a baccalaureate degree.

II. BACKGROUND

The Colorado Community College System schools, as well as Aims Community College, received state authorization to propose bachelor of applied science degrees through Senate Bill 14-004, which requires the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) to submit to the Commission for its approval technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science degree programs and specifies the criteria to be used in evaluating the request. The states of [Florida](#) and [Texas](#) similarly allow community colleges to offer bachelor of applied science degrees.

Colorado community colleges are required to submit proposals for new degree programs to the Department and staff review the proposed degree for the statutory requirements listed under "Statutory Authority." If the proposal meets the requirements, the proposed degree is recommended for approval by the Commission. If the proposal does not meet the requirements, staff works with the institution.

It is helpful to note the difference between types of degrees. One may think of degrees as falling into one of two buckets: (1) traditional liberal arts & sciences and (2) career and technical education (CTE). Traditional liberal arts & sciences degrees include associate of arts (A.A.), associate of science (A.S.), bachelor of arts (B.A.) and bachelor of science (B.S.) degrees. These degrees usually have a general education core that is broad and typical of the liberal arts & sciences (i.e., written and oral communication, mathematics, arts & humanities, social & behavioral sciences, and natural/physical sciences). In Colorado, the fact that most of these arts & sciences degrees have the gtPathways general education curriculum at their core ensures the transferability of coursework in these degrees for students who switch majors or institutions.

Career and technical education (CTE) degrees, on the other hand, are usually aligned with a specific profession and based on workforce needs, are more "applied," and usually do not have a traditional liberal arts & science general education component. Rather, the general education courses in a CTE degree are usually contextualized within the career. For example, rather than

requiring something like “English Comp I,” the written communication requirement would be met by something like “Writing for Water Quality Supervision,” and rather than “College Algebra” the mathematics requirement would be met by something like “Math in the Environmental Sciences.” Examples of CTE degrees include associate of applied science (A.A.S.) and bachelor of applied science (B.A.S.) degrees.

This proposed B.A.S. degree in Dental Hygiene is typical of a CTE degree in that it is an applied degree, students may complete an A.A.S. prior to completing the B.A.S., and it does not require the gtPathways curriculum. Though it does not require or contain gtPathways, transfer is not a concern because the A.A.S. in Dental Hygiene does not contain gtPathways and students who are aware enough of their own career interests to choose this specialized track are unlikely to switch to a different baccalaureate degree.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The following information is summarized from the Colorado Community College System’s proposal, and each of the statutory review criteria are addressed within.

1. Data demonstrates workforce and student demand for the degree program.

Student surveys. Student surveys were conducted in 2006-2010 and again in 2013. Respondents were from the associate degree dental hygiene programs in the Colorado Community College system (i.e., CCD, PCC, Northwestern Community College) and included current students and graduates. Data indicated that 94 percent of dental hygiene students are interested in enrolling in the BAS DEH program. Respondents indicated that a four-year degree is necessary for them to advance their career. For example, community and public health, teaching, and sales require a minimum of a bachelor degree; however, no program for a BAS DEH exists in the state.

Environmental scan. CCD and PCC engaged a third-party consultant (Interact Communications) to conduct an environmental scan. Interact completed telephone surveys with 15 employers and 17 practicing dental hygienists. All of the respondents recognized the need for a dental hygiene degree completion program in Colorado because one does not currently exist. The survey acknowledged that most entry-level positions in dental hygiene require an Associate Degree but possessing a higher degree makes hygienists more employable in a wider variety of practice settings, including education and public health. Also of note is that even though an associate degree is the entry-level point for most dental office positions, more than a third of all jobs employing dental hygienists between the ages of 25 and 44 are filled by those with a baccalaureate degree or higher. Furthermore, the environmental scan indicates that dental hygiene is the fourth fastest growing occupation in the United States and is in the top 20 in Colorado.

2. The regional and professional accreditation requirements for the degree program, if applicable, have been met.

Regional accreditation. This program will require approval by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). CCD and PCC have drafted and will submit the HLC *BAS Degree Request for Degree Approval and Substantive Change Application* upon receiving all appropriate system and state approvals of the program. This process will likely take a minimum of six months and will require a site visit to CCD and PCC. PCC and CCD are currently accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation for their Dental Hygiene Associates Degrees and no further accreditation is required for the BAS.

Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). CCD and PCC dental hygiene programs are fully accredited through CODA. CCD's last CODA accreditation site visit was in 2012 and PCC's next visit is scheduled for fall 2015. Because the addition of the BAS DEH does not affect the core curriculum or the accreditation standards for the associate degree programs, a program change notification is not required before proceeding. However, both programs will notify CODA of the addition of the baccalaureate when HLC approval has been granted.

3. Providing the degree program within the Community College System is cost-effective for the students and the Community College System.

Supporting data. CCD and PCC will share the program's curriculum as a way to maximize educational options for students while controlling program costs. The Associate of Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene (AAS DEH) at CCD and PCC requires 93 credits for completion, leaving only 27 credit hours remaining to meet the norm of 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree. The degree completion approach is a cost effective way for students to obtain a diploma that will offer them more flexible career options and enhance their employability. Offering the program online will avoid pass-through costs associated with the use and maintenance of physical space, and enhance the access and flexibility of post-secondary education for busy dental hygiene professionals.

Program budget assumptions. CCD and PCC project that the BAS DEH will break even within three years with sufficient reserves to supplement the program during the initial two years without any negative affect on operations or other academic programs. Each institution will accept 15 students for the first year and no more than 25 additional students in each cohort thereafter. Enrollment is estimated on the number of AAS DEH students expressing an interest in the BAS.

Revenue projections are based on the 300-and 400-level dental hygiene courses only and do not include income or expenses associated with offering general education electives or any of the courses associated with the AAS DEH. CCD's current dental hygiene program director will assume responsibility for CCD's share of the BAS DEH program curriculum. A full time faculty member will be hired in January 2016 and 50 percent of his or her time will be assigned to coordinate the BAS curriculum and 50 percent will be assigned to the AAS DEH.

PCC's current dental hygiene program director will dedicate 40 percent of her time to the oversight of the BAS DEH courses at the Pueblo campus. A full time master-prepared faculty member will be engaged in the fall 2016 semester and 60 percent of her workload will be dedicated to the BAS DEH. A full time Online Student Success Coach position will be created to assist students with navigation of the online environment, connect students with college resources such as tutoring services, and support them in online learning for student success (CCD will provide this support through its existing staff). Directors from the two campuses will collaborate routinely to assure that students experience a seamless, rigorous education. It will be important that learning and student support services function smoothly across the two campuses.

Equipment maintenance and all other services integral to the success of students are represented in the non-instructional line item in the budget. These include academic advising, library services, tutoring, technical services and support, equipment depreciation, and general business and human resources services necessary for supporting students, faculty, and staff. No additional labs or equipment will be necessary. Tables 1-7 below show the cost-benefit analyses for both CCD and PCC, as well as cost comparisons between other institutions.

Table 1: Community College of Denver BAS DEH Program – Cost Benefit Analysis

Community College of Denver						
Bachelor of Applied Science Dental Hygiene Program – Cost Benefit analysis						
	Fiscal Year					
	Prep Years	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Revenues	2015/2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Tuition - Resident	0	63,705	165,463	200,729	194,006	186,610
Tuition - Non-Resident	0	18,070	67,139	109,626	137,471	167,600
Total Tuition	0	81,775	232,602	310,355	331,476	354,209
Registration Fee	0	596	1,636	2,106	2,169	2,235
High Cost Course Fees	0	1,251	3,437	4,426	4,558	4,695
Total Other Revenue	0	1,847	5,073	6,532	6,728	6,930
Total Revenue	0	83,622	237,675	316,886	338,204	361,139
Expenses						

Salaries/Benefits						
Administrative - Salaries						
Program Director/Chair	11,400	11,742	12,094	12,457	12,831	13,216
Other Administrators	33,750	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative - Benefits	13,545	3,523	3,628	3,737	3,849	3,965
Faculty - Salary	13,875	27,750	28,583	29,440	30,323	31,233
Faculty - Benefits	4,163	8,325	8,575	8,832	9,097	9,370
Adjunct - Salary	12,237	27,723	20,329	20,919	21,510	22,104
Adjunct - Benefits	2,447	5,545	4,066	4,184	4,302	4,421
Technical/Professional – Salary	0	2,900	2,987	3,077	3,169	3,264
Technical/Professional – Benefits	0	870	896	923	951	979
Subtotal Salary/Benefits	91,417	88,378	81,157	83,568	86,032	88,552
Operating/Travel						
Operating	7,500	8,000	8,500	9,000	9,500	10,000
Consultants - Interact	6,500	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Instructional Cost	0	35,925	95,801	119,751	119,751	119,751
Travel	500	500	600	3,200	800	900
Subtotal Operating/Travel	14,500	44,425	104,901	131,951	130,051	130,651
Total Expenses	105,917	132,803	186,058	215,519	216,083	219,202
Yearly Profit/Loss	(105,917)	(49,181)	51,617	101,367	122,121	141,936
Cumulative Profit/Loss	(105,917)	(155,098)	(103,480)	(2,113)	120,008	261,944
Cumulative Profit/Loss (Excluding Prep Years)		(49,181)	2,437	103,804	225,925	367,861

Table 2: Pueblo Community College BAS DEH Program – Cost Benefit Analysis

Pueblo Community College							
Bachelor of Applied Science Dental Hygiene - Cost Benefit Analysis							
		Preparation Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Staffing FTE							
Program Director		0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
FT Faculty			0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Online Student Success Coach			1	1	1	1	1
PT Instructor				0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38
Exempt Staff			0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Student FTE			6.5	15.7	20.2	20.2	20.2
Revenue							
Tuition per credit hour Resident			\$365.00	\$381.43	\$398.59	\$416.53	\$435.27
Nonresident			\$535.40	\$559.49	\$584.67	\$610.98	\$638.47
Program Revenue							
Tuition		\$ -	\$ 76,159.20	\$170,832.69	\$242,584.95	\$258,801.43	\$270,445.35
		Preparation Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Registration Fee		\$ -	\$ 596.00	\$1,636.00	\$2,106.00	\$2,169.00	\$2,235.00
Course Fee		\$ -	\$ 1,408.00	\$3,867.00	\$4,979.00	\$5,128	\$5,282
Total Revenue		\$ -	\$78,163.20	\$176,335.69	\$249,669.95	\$266,098.43	\$277,962.35
Expense							
Program Director		\$ 35,270.80	\$38,096.00	\$39,048.40	\$40,024.61	\$41,025.23	\$42,050.86
FT Faculty		\$ -	\$41,496.00	\$42,533.40	\$43,596.74	\$44,686.66	\$45,803.26
Online Student Success Coach		\$ -	\$58,520.00	\$59,983.00	\$61,482.58	\$63,019.64	\$64,595.13
PT Instructor		\$ -	\$0.00	\$12,157.46	\$12,461.40	\$12,772.93	\$13,092.25
Exempt Staff		\$ -	\$9,269.40	\$9,501.14	\$9,738.67	\$9,982.14	\$10,231.69
Total Personnel Cost		\$ 35,270.80	\$147,381.40	\$163,223.40	\$167,304.00	\$171,486.60	\$175,773.19
Operating	*	\$ 5,525.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Total Direct Costs		\$ 40,795.80	\$157,381.40	\$173,223.40	\$175,304.00	\$179,486.60	\$183,773.19
Indirect Costs		\$ 10,581.24	\$44,214.42	\$48,967.02	\$50,191.20	\$51,445.98	\$52,731.96
Total Expense		\$ 51,377.04	\$201,595.82	\$222,190.42	\$225,495.20	\$230,932.58	\$236,505.15
Gain/(Loss)		(\$51,377)	(\$123,433)	(\$45,854.73)	\$24,174.75	\$35,165.84	\$41,457.20
*HLC Costs - Prep Year							

Table 3: Community College of Denver BAS DEH Program – Cost Comparison

	RESIDENT RATES								
	Community College of Denver Dental			Metropolitan State University of Denver Nursing			Colorado State University Pueblo Nursing		
	Credit	Rate	Total	Credit	Rate	Total	Credit	Rate	Total
Lower Division Tuition – General	31	130.50	4,045.50						
Lower Division Tuition – Dental	65	256.00	16,640.00						
Upper Division Tuition	24	290.00	6,960.00						
Non-Nursing Courses				60	174.08	10,444.80	46	203.26	9,349.88
Nursing Courses				63	444.00	27,972.00	74	234.56	17,357.68
Mandatory Fees			2,905.28			4,792.00			8,490.00
Total	120		30,550.78	123		43,208.80	120		35,197.56
Student Cost Per Credit Hour			254.59			351.29			293.31

Table 4: Pueblo Community College BAS DEH Program – Cost Comparison

	NON-RESIDENT RATES								
	Community College of Denver Dental			Metropolitan State University of Denver Nursing			Colorado State University Pueblo Nursing		
	Credit	Rate	Total	Credit	Rate	Total	Credit	Rate	Total
Lower Division Tuition – General	31	535.40	16,597.40						
Lower Division Tuition – Dental	65	535.40	34,801.00						
Upper Division Tuition	24	535.40	12,849.60						
Non-Nursing Courses				60	628.64	37,718.40	46	582.60	26,799.54
Nursing Courses				63	444.00	27,972.00	74	624.18	46,189.38
Mandatory Fees			2,905.28			4,792.00			8,490.00
Total	120		67,153.28	123		70,482.40	120		81,478.92
Student Cost Per Credit Hour			559.61			573.03			678.99

Table 5: Pueblo Community College BAS DEH Program – Cost Comparison Resident Rates

	Pueblo Community College	CSU-Global	Northern Arizona University's Extended Campus (Online)	Northern Arizona University
	Credits * Rate Total	Credits Rate Total	Credits Rate Total	Credits Rate Total
Lower division tuition at standard rate	29 \$130.50 \$3,784.50	-----	28 \$130.50 \$3,654.00 <i>Calculated at PCC's lower division rate</i>	-----
Lower division tuition at Dental Hygiene rate	67 \$256.00 \$17,152.00	-----	67 \$256.00 \$17,152.00 <i>Calculated at PCC's lower division rate</i>	-----
Lower division fees for 12 credits	\$275.15 (x7.9) \$2,178.27	-----	-----	-----
Higher division tuition	24 \$290.00 \$6,960.00	120 \$350.00 \$42,000.00	30 \$362.00 \$10,860.00	120 \$380.00 \$45,600.00
Higher division fees for 24 credits/4 semesters	\$6.75 +reg. fee \$213.40	-----	\$25.00 \$750.00	\$434.00 \$4,340.00
Total	120 \$30,288.17	120 \$42,000.00	**125 \$32,416.00	120 \$49,940.00

**PCC/CCD lower and upper division resident rate was calculated with COF (\$75) accounted for, FY 16, and at the first year tuition rate.*

*** NAU Extended Campus will award 120/125 credits towards the BAS DEH.*

PCC and CCD resident and non-resident tuition rates are the same at \$290.00 and \$535.40 respectfully.

Table 6: Pueblo Community College BAS DEH Program – Cost Comparison Resident Rates, continued

	Pennsylvania College of Technology Online Completion			Pennsylvania College of Technology			Wichita State University, degree completion			Wichita State University		
	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Total</i>
Lower division tuition at standard rate	28	\$130.50	\$3,654.00	-----	-----	-----	28	\$130.50	\$3,654.00	-----	-----	-----
	<i>Calculated at PCC's lower division rate</i>						<i>Calculated at PCC's lower division rate</i>					
Lower division tuition at Dental Hygiene rate	67	\$256.00	\$17,152.00	-----	-----	-----	67	\$256.00	\$17,152.00	-----	-----	-----
	<i>Calculated at PCC's lower division rate</i>						<i>Calculated at PCC's lower division rate</i>					
Lower division fees for 12 credits	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Higher division tuition	36	\$527	\$18,972.00	125	\$527.00	\$65,875.00	32	\$262.41	\$8,397.12	125	\$262.41	\$32,801.25
Higher division fees for 24 credits/4 semesters	\$40 lab fee, unsure total cost or how many labs therefore not calculated in the total			\$40 lab fee, unsure total cost or how many labs therefore not calculated in the total			\$15.00 \$480.00 \$15 per credit fee for all health profession courses(32 credits)			\$15.00 \$885.00 \$15 per credit fee for all health profession courses(59 DEH specific courses)		
Total	***131		\$36,124.00	125		\$65,875.00	^*127		\$36,604.00	125		\$33,686.25

*** Penn College will transfer in 44 credits from the AAS and 36 credits MUST be taken at Penn College of Tech

** Wichita University, must earn 32 credits at the institution.

PCC and CCD resident and non-resident tuition rates are the same at \$290.00 and \$535.40 respectfully.

Table 7: Pueblo Community College BAS DEH Program – Cost Comparison, Non-Residents

College	Tuition Rate per credit	Fees	Total tuition and fees per credit	Notes
Northern Arizona University Traditional	\$902	\$329	\$1,231	
Northern Arizona University Extended Campus	No difference between resident and nonresident rates			Caps tuition rate at \$3,587.00 for 7-12 credits with an \$8 increase in IT fee per credit. (7 credits = \$56 and 12 credits = \$96)
Pennsylvania College of Technology	\$749	None	\$749	\$40 lab fee, unsure total cost or how many labs therefore not calculated in the total
Wichita State University	\$1,020 for 1 credit per term \$552.50 per credit when enrolled in 12 credits per term	\$15.00 per credit for all health profession courses	\$1,035 for 1 credit per term \$567.50 for 12 credits per term	Rates vary based on number of credits. Plus additional Dental Hygiene specific fees, not calculated in.

4. The degree program is sufficiently distinguishable from:

- a. an existing degree program at a state four-year institution of higher education that is provided to a student who resides in the community college's geographic service area, as defined by the Commission pursuant to Section 23-1-109 (2), without the student having to change his or her residence, or
- b. a degree program that has been successfully offered previously in conjunction with a state four-year institution of higher education, which degree program will be reinstated sooner than the degree program could be offered by the community college.

Supporting data. The program's external feasibility indicated that there are no four-year dental hygiene programs in Colorado nor are there any AAS dental hygiene degree completion programs. The only four-year dental hygiene program that existed in Colorado closed in 2008 and was located at the University Of Colorado School Of Dental Medicine. The bachelor program was closed for a change in focus for the School of Dental Medicine as they opened an accelerated Doctor of Dental Medicine for foreign-trained dentists. At this time, there is no known plan to reinstate the BAS in DEH.

[Department staff confirm that a search for baccalaureate dental hygiene programs at both public and private four-year institutions turned up nothing.]

5. **The degree program could not be provided through a statewide transfer agreement pursuant to Section 23-1-108 (7) with an accredited state four-year institution in the community college's geographic service area or with an accredited state four-year institution of higher education that has a statewide service area, as defined by the Commission pursuant to Section 23-1-109 (2), that will deliver an existing Bachelor of Applied Science program in the community college's service area sooner than the degree program could be offered by the community college.**

Supporting data. There are no public institutions in the state offering a BAS DEH. The University of Colorado (CU) no longer offers a dental hygiene program. Between 2005 and 2007, CCD and PCC discussed the feasibility of an articulation with CU's dental hygiene program co-chairs. The articulation agreement would have allowed graduates of the three Colorado community college dental hygiene programs to continue their education and receive a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from CU. CU declined to participate in the proposed agreement and has since closed the program.

6. **The Best Interests of the State.**

In determining whether to approve a bachelor of applied science degree program, the commission shall consider whether the state board has met the criteria set forth above and whether the proposed bachelor of applied science degree program is in the best interests of the state of Colorado. Department staff concludes the criteria above have been sufficiently met. Staff agrees this proposed degree is in the best interests of the state of Colorado.

The following describes how the proposed program addresses the needs of the community:

Supporting data. Denver is a regional hub for public health and regulatory agencies which employ dental hygienists. Because the public health sector will only hire baccalaureate-prepared dental hygienists, CCD faculty collaborated with representatives from these agencies, especially the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, to develop to the BAS DEH curriculum.

Through its development of an education track, PCC will respond to the need to prepare dental hygienists to teach in AAS programs. Full-time faculty are required to possess at least a baccalaureate degree, and the PCC curriculum will prepare current dental hygienists for teaching careers in the post-secondary environment.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), states the following:

“The program administrator must be a dental hygienist who is a graduate of a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and possesses a masters or higher degree or is currently enrolled in masters or higher degree program or a dentist who has background in education and the professional experience necessary to understand and fulfill the program goals. The full time faculty of a dental hygiene program must possess a baccalaureate or higher degree. Part-time faculty providing didactic instruction must have earned at least a baccalaureate degree or be currently enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program.”

In its 2000 report on oral health in America, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services characterized the need for baccalaureate-prepared dental professionals in the community/public health sector as follows:

“There is also a lack of available trained public health practitioners knowledgeable about oral health. As a result, existing disease prevention programs are not being implemented in many communities, creating gaps in prevention and care that affect the nation's neediest populations.”

The rigorous BAS DEH program offered jointly by CCD and PCC will respond to the growing demand for baccalaureate-prepared dental hygienists in public health and education. As one of few such programs in the country, and the only one of its kind in Colorado, the campuses will be on the forefront of providing access to education to dental hygiene professionals, along with providing a career pathway for advancement.

7. Anticipated Systemwide Effects.

In determining whether to approve a bachelor of applied science degree program, the commission may also consult with any state four-year institution of higher education that shares the same geographic service area concerning the proposed degree program to inform the commission of any anticipated systemwide effects of the new degree program. Since every four-year institution’s geographic service area is the entire state (per [Commission Policy I, N](#)), every four-year institution was consulted.

Both Western State Colorado University and Adams State University responded they had no concerns. No other responses were received.

At its August 12, 2015 meeting, the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education approved the degree to be offered at Community College of Denver and Pueblo Community College.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Commission approve the Bachelor of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene at Community College of Denver and Pueblo Community College including a waiver to be exempt from gtPathways requirements.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-125 Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test - prior learning

(1)(a) Students should be able to complete their associate of arts and associate of science degree programs in no more than sixty credit hours or their baccalaureate programs in no more than one hundred twenty credit hours unless there are additional degree requirements recognized by the commission;

(3) Core courses. The department, in consultation with each Colorado public institution of higher education, is directed to outline a plan to implement a core course concept that defines the general education course guidelines for all public institutions of higher education... Individual institutions of higher education shall conform their own core course requirements with the guidelines developed by the department and shall identify the specific courses that meet the general education course guidelines. Any such guidelines developed by the department shall be submitted to the commission for its approval. In creating and adopting the guidelines, the department and the commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher education, may make allowances for baccalaureate programs that have additional degree requirements recognized by the commission;

C.R.S. §23-1-133. Commission directive - bachelor of applied science degree programs - community colleges – approval

(1) (a) The state board for community colleges and occupational education, referred to in this section as the "state board", shall submit to the commission for its approval technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science degree programs to be offered at one or more community colleges within the state system. The commission shall consider the following criteria in determining whether to approve a bachelor of applied science degree program:

(I) Whether the state board provides data demonstrating workforce and student demand for the degree program;

(II) The regional and professional accreditation requirements for the degree program, if applicable, and whether the college can satisfy those requirements, as appropriate, at both the institutional and program levels;

(III) Whether the state board can demonstrate that providing the degree program within the community college system is cost-effective for the student and the community college system;

(IV) Whether the state board can demonstrate that the degree program is sufficiently distinguishable from:

(A) An existing degree program at a state four-year institution of higher education that is provided to a student who resides in the community college's geographic service area, as defined by the commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), without the student having to change his or her residence; or

(B) A degree program that has been successfully offered previously in conjunction with a state four-year institution of higher education, which degree program will be reinstated sooner than the degree program could be offered by the community college; and

(V) Whether the bachelor of applied science degree program could be provided through a statewide transfer agreement pursuant to section 23-1-108 (7) with an accredited state four-year institution in the community college's geographic service area or with an accredited state four-year institution of higher education that has a statewide service area, as defined by the commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), that will deliver an existing bachelor of applied science program in the community college's geographic service area sooner than the degree program could be offered by the community college.

(b) In addition, in determining whether to approve a bachelor of applied science degree program, the commission:

(I) Shall consider whether the state board has met the criteria set forth in subparagraphs (I) to (IV) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) and whether the proposed bachelor of applied science degree program is in the best interests of the state of Colorado;

(II) Shall consult with the state board and state four-year institutions of higher education concerning whether the collaboration described in subparagraph (V) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) is feasible; and

(III) May consult with any state four-year institution of higher education that shares the same geographic service area, as defined by the commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), concerning the proposed degree program to inform the commission of any anticipated systemwide effects of the new degree program.

(2) (a) In determining whether to approve a bachelor of applied science degree program for Aims community college pursuant to section 23-71-102, the commission shall consider the following criteria:

(I) Whether Aims community college provides data demonstrating workforce and student demand for the degree program;

(II) The regional and professional accreditation requirements for the degree program, if

applicable, and whether the college can satisfy those requirements, as appropriate, at both the institutional and program levels;

(III) Whether Aims community college can demonstrate that providing the degree program within its service area is cost-effective for the student and Aims community college;

(IV) Whether Aims community college can demonstrate that the degree program is sufficiently distinguishable from:

(A) An existing degree program at a state four-year institution of higher education that is provided to a student who resides in Aims community college's geographic service area, as defined by the commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), without the student having to change his or her residence; or

(B) A degree program that has been successfully offered previously in conjunction with a state four-year institution of higher education, which degree program will be reinstated sooner than the degree program could be offered by the community college; and

(V) Whether the bachelor of applied science degree program could be provided through a statewide transfer agreement pursuant to section 23-1-108 (7) with an accredited state four-year institution in Aims community college's geographic service area or with an accredited state four-year institution of higher education that has a statewide service area, as defined by the commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), that will deliver an existing bachelor of applied science program in Aims community college's geographic service area sooner than the degree program could be offered by Aims community college.

(b) In addition, in determining whether to approve a bachelor of applied science degree program, the commission:

(I) Shall consider whether Aims community college has met the criteria set forth in subparagraphs (I) to (IV) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) and whether the proposed bachelor of applied science degree program is in the best interests of the state of Colorado;

(II) Shall consult with Aims community college and state four-year institutions of higher education concerning whether the collaboration described in subparagraph (V) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) is feasible; and

(III) May consult with any state four-year institution of higher education that shares the same geographic service area, as defined by the commission pursuant to section 23-1-109 (2), concerning the proposed degree program to inform the commission of any anticipated systemwide effects of the new degree program.